

CLAIMS

1-76. (Canceled).

77. (Currently Amended) A combination for controlling airflow between an air hose and an inflatable thermal device, comprising:

at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for being coupled with an end of the air hose; and

a mechanism disposed in the air hose near the end for opening to enable airflow out of the end when the end is coupled with the inlet port; and

means near the end for opening the mechanism in response to the inlet port coupling with the end.

78. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 77 in which the mechanism cooperates with the inlet port independently of the rotational alignment of the end in the inlet port.

79. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 77 in which the end has a diameter and the mechanism includes a valve with a flap having a diameter substantially the same as the end diameter.

80. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 79 in which the ~~valve~~ means include a hinge lever to cooperate with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air when the end is coupled with the inlet port.

81. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 79 in which the ~~valve~~ means include seating cams to cooperate with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air when the end is coupled with the inlet port.

82. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 79 in which the ~~valve~~ means include a gear rack mounted lever to cooperate with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air when the end is coupled with the inlet port .

83. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 79 ~~further including in which the means include~~ a first magnet in the air hose, ~~and~~ a second magnet in the mechanism, wherein the first magnet cooperates with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is not coupled with the inlet port.

84. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling air flow in a system including an inflatable thermal device, an air hose having two ends, at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for receiving one end of the two ends of the air hose, and the air hose including a mechanism near the end to control the flow of pressurized air through the end, comprising:

coupling the one end with the inlet port;

operating the mechanism in response to coupling to permit an airflow out of the one end;

operating the inflatable thermal device in response to the airflow;

decoupling the one end from the inlet port; and,

in response to decoupling, operating the mechanism to block airflow through the one end.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84 in which operating the mechanism in response to coupling includes opening the mechanism.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84 wherein the mechanism includes a flap, and operating the mechanism in response to coupling includes moving the flap in response to coupling, in order to permit airflow.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 wherein the mechanism includes a hinge lever connected to the flap, and moving the flap includes the hinge lever cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the airflow while the one end is joined with the inlet port.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 wherein the mechanism includes seating cams attached to the flap, and moving the flap includes the seating cams cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air while the one end is joined with the inlet port.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 wherein the mechanism includes a gear rack mounted lever, and moving the flap includes the gear rack mounted lever cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking airflow.

90. (Canceled)

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84 wherein the mechanism includes a flap that blocks the airflow through the one end, and operating the mechanism to block includes moving the flap in response to decoupling in order to block airflow.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91 the system further including a first magnet in the air hose and a second magnet in the mechanism, and in which moving the flap includes the first magnet cooperating with the second magnet to retain the flap in a position in the one end at which the flap blocks airflow through the one end.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91, wherein moving the flap in response to decoupling includes moving the flap to a first position in the one end at which the valve is closed.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93 wherein moving the flap in response to coupling includes moving the flap to a second position in the one end at which the valve is open.

95. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling air flow in a system including an inflatable thermal device, an air hose having two ends, at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for receiving one end of the two ends of the air hose, and the air hose including a mechanism near the end to control the flow of pressurized air through the end, comprising:

coupling the one end with the inlet port;
operating the mechanism in response to coupling to permit an airflow out of the one end;
in which operating the mechanism includes opening the mechanism; and
operating the inflatable thermal device in response to the airflow.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 95 wherein the mechanism includes a flap, and opening the mechanism includes moving the flap in response to coupling, in order to permit airflow.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96 wherein the mechanism includes a hinge lever connected to the flap, and moving the flap includes the hinge lever cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the airflow while the one end is joined with the inlet port.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96 wherein the mechanism includes seating cams attached to the flap, and moving the flap includes the seating cams cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air while the one end is joined with the inlet port.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96 wherein the mechanism includes a gear rack mounted lever, and moving the flap includes the gear rack mounted lever cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking airflow.